



Friends of Niger | Amis du Niger
PO Box 452 Haverford PA 19041 USA
www.friendsofniger.org

"Hannu daya ba ya daukar daki." Hausa proverb
One hand by itself cannot lift the roof onto the hut.

December 2020

Dear Friend of Niger,

There is so much wisdom, or just plain truth, in the proverbs of the Zarma, Fulani, Tamasheq, Hausa, Kanuri and other people of Niger! This one recognizes that we can achieve more when we work together – like lifting a conical straw roof onto a new hut. The job simply requires many hands! So does the work of Friends of Niger. We ask for your help in doing the lifting.

You and I represent a tiny fraction of the population that knows anything at all about Niger. From having lived and worked there, we have a better understanding what life is like there and what the needs are. We know people there! We made friends! We care about the humanitarian toll that poverty takes on individuals, families, and communities.

Friends of Niger offers a way for you to continue to support effective life-changing development and humanitarian work even after your time there has ended: moringa gardens, solar electrification of health clinics, emergency assistance for malaria prevention in flooded areas, and more. The Nigeriens who implement these projects, and the participants and recipients themselves, often send us their heartfelt thanks ... in videos and pictures!

Our mission is to promote and support sustainable development efforts in Niger. Many of our projects target women and children aiming to improve economic opportunities, nutrition, and health. We acknowledge that humanitarian assistance can also aid development, so we appeal to you when emergency aid is needed. Time and again you have responded generously!

Your expanded and rejuvenated FON Board of Directors is looking forward to next year! Please take a few minutes to read the enclosed 2020 Funded Projects Report and contact us if you would like to learn more or get more involved.

Your gift can help in so many ways. Please use the printed remit slip and mail to Friends of Niger, PO Box 452, Haverford PA 19041 or you can go to our website at www.friendsofniger.org and donate via PayPal by clicking on the "DONATE" button.

Your year-end gift to Friends of Niger is tax-deductible and makes a real impact on families in the country we love.

Please do it today. Please donate to Friends of Niger. **One set of hands cannot do it. Please help with the lifting!**

Thank you so much for your past and future support.

Sincerely,

John Baird, President
Friends of Niger
Niger RPCV 68-71
president@friendsofniger.org

Friends of Niger is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3). EIN: 65-1267451. Donations are fully tax-deductible.



FRIENDS OF NIGER

2020 FUNDED PROJECTS REPORT

For Niger, 2020 has been a year of special challenges heaped upon the long-standing issues of poverty, poor health, access to education and other obstacles to economic development. Adding to the ongoing terrorist attacks in the east, the Tillaberi region, and elsewhere, the COVID-19 pandemic shut down schools and closed borders for many months. These ongoing and new emergencies have compounded the difficulties of providing health care and other essential services to a growing population, including the influx of refugees fleeing violence in surrounding countries. During the period from June through September 2020, Niger experienced repeated torrential rains, with widespread flooding, even in the desert areas. The floods have resulted in loss of life, housing, infrastructure, and crops, and standing water has provided breeding grounds for mosquitoes, fueling an outbreak of malaria.

This year FON funding prioritized projects addressing the new emergencies, as well as building on the successes of projects funded in 2019. We continue to provide grants to small Nigerien non-profit organizations with no- or low-overhead, and to emphasize those that help connect former Niger volunteers with the communities where they served. We have also worked to expand linkages among Nigerien NGOs to increase their impact and leverage support from other sources.

We have supported innovative initiatives such as the use of greywater (household wastewater) for irrigating community gardens, a project that may ultimately be funded by other sources or replicated in new communities. Through co-projects, such as the solar energy projects, we continue to encourage individual FON members to support solar electrification in their villages. We responded quickly to the aftermath of the flooding, providing small grants to several local NGOs, as well as encouraging FON members to expand on these efforts while we consider how to develop more long-term prevention and mitigation strategies. These and other projects funded in 2020 are described in more detail below.

One Family One Garden

FON provided support (actually you our dear members and friends provided support) for the past three years to Infirmiere d'Etat Moustapha Harou to improve nutrition for families in the Dakoro area through planting of Moringa trees and vegetable gardens. We approved funding in late 2019 for a phased expansion of the project to additional villages, both for family kitchen gardens and for larger community gardens involving multiple families. A FON evaluation of the earlier projects found that child malnutrition decreased in the villages that had Moringa gardens, but access to water for irrigation was a problem. To address this issue, an innovative experiment has involved the use of 'greywater' - wastewater from household uses (bathing,



livestock watering, etc.) - to irrigate the gardens. FON funds supported the purchase of fencing materials to protect the gardens from animals, water containers, and garden tools, as well as an assessment of how well the 'greywater' approach has worked.

Support to Women's Organizations to Implement Micro-credit Programs

FON assisted a program of the National Peace Corps Association Community Fund - TCP Global to provide micro-lending to five sites in Niger. Loans were provided to 439 recipients and had a 99.6% repayment rate. A FON grant enabled Nigerien NGO Potentiel Terre to help TCP-Global implement the program for producer organizations and women's groups. This experience has enabled Potential Terre to develop IGA support tools and establish contacts with local banks and financial empowerment support institutions. Potential Terre used FON support to introduce and initiate members from two women's organizations to the use of micro-credit.

Medicines for Niger

Kirker Foundation /Niger (KF/N), a Nigerien NGO, works to increase availability, access, and utilization of quality medicines and supplies in medical facilities in Niger, especially in remote areas. KF/N is a trusted partner of Niger's Ministry of Health and of international NGOs such as MAP International, MedShare, Conscience International, and Rise Against Hunger, all of which rely on a local non-governmental partner to facilitate interactions with the national and local governments, ensuring their assistance meets high priority needs of the country and is delivered in a timely, efficient and trustworthy manner. KF/N partners with the US-based NGO, Kirker African Medical Relief Association (KAMRA) to coordinate and secure the medicines, supplies, and support resources to make these life-sustaining interventions possible.

In January 2020, FON approved a grant of \$7,500 to KF/N. Of this amount, \$1,500 was used to store and transport nutrition packets from Rise Against Hunger (RAH) to support a school feeding program for nomadic children in Wambouzou in the Tchintabaraden region. This school feeding program was previously supported through a FON grant to the Nigerien NGO Achet'Akal. The new grant helped to improve the program and demonstrate to RAH they were good recipients. KF/N has now secured support from RAH for a shipment of nutrition packets for the new school year for Wambouzou, as well as for schools in the Maine-Soroa area and Bande. In addition to the nutrition packets in the new shipment, RAH will provide small grant funds to Achet Akal and Bande for local purchase of firewood and condiments to flavor the food, and to construct kitchen facilities for the Bande school.

Of the remaining \$6,000, some funds were used to secure in-country clearance and distribution of medical supplies from a Conscience International-sponsored MedShare shipment

that included 120,000 surgical and N95 masks for use in slowing the spread of COVID-19. The rest of the funds are being used to secure clearance and distribution of a MAP International shipment of life-saving antibiotics, oral hydration supplies, and prenatal vitamins. The MAP shipment valued at almost \$16 million arrived in Niamey in October, after the borders closed due to the pandemic re-opened, and will be distributed to hospitals and health centers throughout Niger.

Building on the success of KF/N in leveraging the securing and distribution of millions of dollars in medicines and supplies for Niger, as well as progress in establishing new linkages and



partnerships, FON approved an additional \$10,000 grant to KF/N in May 2020 to cover in-country costs for two MAP shipments in the fall of 2020 and winter 2020/21. Over the years that KF/N has worked with MAP, the value of shipments of medicines has ranged from \$1.5 million to \$20 million, and in some years, accounted for up to a third of the pharmaceutical supplies available to Niger's Ministry of Health. As with previous shipments, the medicines and supplies will be selected in close cooperation with the Ministry of Health to ensure they are used appropriately throughout Niger's health care system, greatly expanding the capacity to meet the needs during the pandemic.

Solar Electrification of Health Clinics

In 2018, FON provided \$2100 to Moustapha Harou to purchase and install solar electrification in two rural health clinics. With electricity, clinics can provide 24-hour medical care, and can refrigerate vaccines and medicines that must be maintained at cold temperatures. FON



members have used the co-funding model to replicate the solar electrification project in the villages of Djirataoua and several rural clinics in the Bande area where they served as Volunteers. Additional money raised from the Rotary Club in Ann Arbor, Michigan was used to expand the project to additional clinics in the Zinder region and provide refrigerators in addition to the solar panels. Batteries for the initial

installations proved to be of insufficient capacity, however, and additional support was required for maintenance. FON is now supporting upgraded batteries to six clinics with \$16,000 in funding with maintenance training included. These AGM batteries have a longer life span of 5-7 years. Solar electrification provides a great opportunity for partnerships for former Volunteers to continue making important contributions to their rural villages through the co-funding mechanism with Friends of Niger.

Emergency Assistance for Malaria Prevention in Flooded Areas

Heavy rainfall in the Niamey, Agadez and Maradi departments over several weeks damaged



homes and crops and resulted in severe flooding that left large pools of water perfect for breeding mosquitos that transmit malaria. FON moved quickly to provide emergency assistance to Nigerien NGOs in those regions. With funds added by members, FON provided \$1,752 to each of six NGOs that are known to the FON Board and are capable of

delivering services to their communities. Funds are being used to purchase and distribute insecticide-impregnated mosquito nets and antimalarial drugs, or to provide other emergency

assistance if nets have already been purchased. In addition to the direct assistance from FON, the Board alerted FON members to the opportunity to provide aid. Members responded generously with an amazing \$5834 in donations! These will be distributed equally to all groups.



Villagers near Agadez receiving mosquito nets.

Friends of Niger is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3). EIN: 65-1267451. Donations are fully tax-deductible.

Friends of Niger

**Yes! I want to help Friends of Niger expand our important life-saving and life-changing work in Niger.
Enclosed is my contribution of:**

☐ \$50

☐ \$100

☐ \$200

☐ \$_____

Please make your check payable to Friends of Niger and return in the enclosed envelope to:
PO Box 452 Haverford, PA 19041. Friends of Niger is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your contribution
is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. To donate online, visit www.friendsofniger.org and click on the
donate button which will take you to a secure PayPal donation site. Thank you!